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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to Fax No. (703) 872-9302 on December 11, 2003.

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CU-2676

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

DOCKET:

Kazuyuki MATSUMOTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3724

SERIAL NO:

09/964,062

) Examiner: J. Windmuller

FILED:

September 26, 2001

TITLE:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CUTTING A SHEET-SHAPED

MATERIAL

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2003 and having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on December 24, 2003. Applicant submits the following responsive amendment in the aboveidentified application. Applicant believes this amendment places the application in better condition for allowance. Applicant's remarks are attached hereto and start on page 2.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the attached amended claims.